AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process for applying and curing a powder coating which comprises the steps of

    (1) applying the powder coating to a substrate;

    (2) irradiating the applied powder coating with near infrared (NIR) radiation using NIR emitters, wherein the NIR radiation emitted from the NIR emitters has a wavelength ranging from about 250 to about 5500 nm; and

    3) providing filters for the NIR emitters, wherein said filters are coated filters selected from borosilicate glass, silica glass, and vitreous ceramic; wherein said filters restrict the wavelength of the NIR radiation emitted from the emitters to a wavelength ranging from 250 to 3000 nm, wherein the restricted NIR radiation primarily has a wavelength ranging from 750 to 1200 nm.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The process according to claim 1 wherein a combination is used of the NIR irradiation with a conventional heat source.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The process according to claim 3 wherein the conventional heat source is selected from the group consisting of infrared radiation, convection heat and gas infrared radiation emitters.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The process according to claim 1 wherein the coated filters are coated on one or both sides with absorbent or reflective substances.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The process according to claim 1 wherein the powder coating is cured in a period from 0.5 to 60 seconds.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The process according to claim 1 wherein three-dimensional substrates are coated and cured.

9. (CANCELED)